The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY • FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017 • VOLUME LVI NO. 22 • SINCE 1965

Black Empowerment Through the Arts

By Danielle Meikle
Staff Writer

With Black History Month coming to a close, students were offered a final opportunity to reflect on the contributions of the black community with a special event, "A Celebration of Black History," hosted by the School of Arts and Sciences on Feb. 21 in the SCC Boardrooms.

The theme of this year's event was "Black Superheroes, Black Film, and Black Empowerment." According to Heather Parker, associate dean of the school of arts and sciences, this theme was chosen because "students need to understand that political and social movements are reflected in popular culture, such as movies, television, music, and, as this event showed – superheroes in comic books. It is important to think about this as we watch movies and listen to music today."

Parker also raised the question, "What do movies and television and music tell us about the society we live in today?"

The event featured trifold posters focused on the theme and was created with the help of students. Also on display were action figures of some black superheroes, such as Marvel Comics' Black Panther and Bumblebee, a D.C. superhero girl. As for black film, there were posters created about prominent black actors, actresses, and TV shows. These included actor and musician Ice Cube, and the TV shows "The Cosby Show," "Empire," and "The Fresh Prince of Bel-air."

Students had the opportunity to dress up like a superhero and have their photo taken. They also had the option of having a caricature drawn of themselves as a superhero.

The event also featured some tasty dishes. Macaroni and cheese and pumpkin pie available which, in addition to the caricatures, seemed to be a crowd favorite.

Martina McKoy, a sophomore psychology major, said, "I liked the exhibits and the fun activities, but most of all truly enjoyed the food. Pumpkin pie is my favorite!"

Parker also made a speech about black empowerment. The presentation explored ways in which black people were oppressed by society, in addition to the ways in which they fought back specifically through their artwork. Music, film, comics, and television shows were used as a means of empowerment for black people, and they inspired hope about the improvement of their quality of life. The presentation opened with the song, "A Change Is Gonna Come," written in 1964 by Sam Cooke, which was effective in introducing the topic, as the song speaks to the underlying themes of oppression and hope.

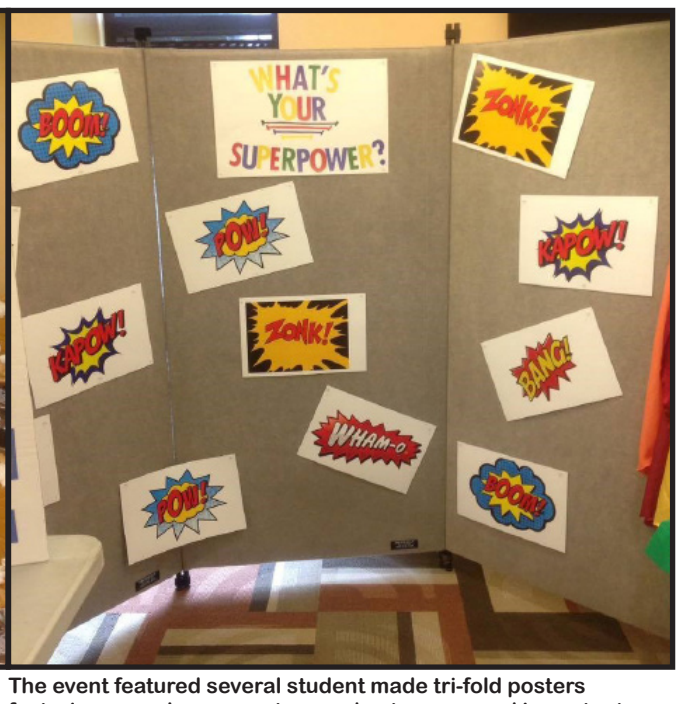
"The presentation gave me perspective on how far the black community has come. There is power in unity, and I definitely have strong feelings of pride because of our history," said Laurian Simpson, a freshman biology major.

The event set out to "help students understand the connection between the movement for black empowerment that occurred in the late 1960s and the early 1970s and the explosion of the creation of powerful black superheroes and powerful characters in black film during the same period," according to Parker. Based on its displays, activities, and reception, it is clear to see that this goal was achieved.

Photo by Danielle Meikle

The event aimed to show black empowerment through the arts with a focus on black film and superheroes.

Two well-known traditional African-American dishes, macaroni and cheese and pumpkin pie, were available for students to try.



Photos by Danielle Meikle

The event featured several student made tri-fold posters featuring superheroes, actors and actresses, and important historical figures.

Students were fascinated by the superhero action figures on display. Some of these characters had never been seen before and were unfamiliar to most guests.

Photos by Danielle Meikle

The caricature booth seemed to be the biggest hit among students. Participants enjoyed seeing themselves become a piece of the art, like a superhero straight from a comic book.

Editorial

How Foreign Workers Aid America's Economy

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

After President Donald Trump's administration attempted to ban seven countries from entering the United States, the next step towards changing the American immigration policy might be targeting visas for foreign workers, according to Bloomberg. If these changes are implemented and it becomes more difficult for employers to hire foreign workers, it could change the way in which American companies, such as Microsoft and Amazon, recruit talented workers.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa applications are submitted to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The visas, which allow foreign workers to legally be employed in the United States, have been in high demand over the last few years.

According to CNN, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services received 236,000 applications in 2016, which is 3,000 more than received in 2015 and nearly 65,000 more than received in 2014. The same article indicates that each year, only 85,000 workers are being selected from the lottery and are granted with the work permit. Out of the whole pool, 20,000 visas are awarded only to workers who have a Master's Degree.

Many U.S. companies, especially tech companies from Silicon Valley, have a high demand for highly skilled foreign workers. According to CNN, some of the businesses even indicate that the H-1B visa program helps the American economy and without the many perspective employees staying in the country, many foreign workers could take their ideas and companies elsewhere.

Additionally, a recent study conducted by the National Foundation for American Policy indicated that more than 50 percent of the United States' most prominent privately held companies in which their overall worth is equal to $1 billion or more have at least one foreign founder.

However, even though the statistics indicate that acquiring skilled workers from other countries is beneficial to the U.S. economy, some Americans perceive immigrant workers solely as those who take jobs away from Americans.

Nevertheless, in an interview with the National Review, Microsoft founder and one of the richest people in the world, Bill Gates indicated that hiring foreign workers does not take jobs away from Americans, but instead, creates additional positions for them.

"A recent study shows for every H-1B holder that technology companies hire, five additional jobs are created around that person," said Gates.

Having the H-1B visa program also has other benefits. According to Bloomberg, India's technology companies, including big corporations such as Infosys, indicate that being able to have foreign workers within the United States prevents tech companies from looking elsewhere for cheap solutions and outsourcing work. Infosys even presented the company's statement regarding their employees working in the U.S.

"We continue to hire and invest locally. However, given the skill shortages in the U.S. and the availability of technically skilled workforce in various global markets, we also rely upon visa programs to supplement these skills," said the company's representative.

One of the most important parts of this statement is pointing out the issue of skill shortages in the United States. Apparently, there are many positions that remain unfilled because there are not enough people in the country that are qualified for them. According to The Chopras, the positions usually require technical knowledge and include but are not limited to computer system analysts, software engineers, web developers, and many more.

H-1B visas are serving as a solution to this problem because they allow the companies that need qualified workers to find them in countries other than the U.S. Such a solution brings benefits to the American economy because rather than outsourcing the job, the employers are able to provide their workers with a legal job in the U.S. In such a case, the workers pay taxes in America rather than in their home countries.

Nevertheless, the visa program is intended to allow American companies to primarily acquire highly skilled workers in case of skill shortages. The main issue that might arise due to this fact is whether or not the workers that are hired by companies in the U.S. are actually more qualified than American workers.

If the latter is untrue, the visa program is misused and it is possible that President Trump's new plan will address this issue and bring relevant changes. Even though the outcome is unknown, experts continue to debate about what can happen if obtaining the visas becomes more difficult.

"Whatever specific changes are implemented, they are likely to add to the expenses for India's technology companies. That may accelerate a shift to new kinds of services, such as cloud computing and artificial intelligence," said Raja Lahiri, partner at the Mumbai-based consultancy Grant Thornton India, according to Bloomberg.

Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

Searching for a Queen

Photo by John Hall

On Jan. 21, one lucky lady became royalty. To see who was crowned this year's Miss CSA, check out the full article online.

Nan Nkama Pan

Photo by Wakens Leonard

The Nan Nkama Pan African dance group visited Saint Leo University on Feb. 21. To learn more about the dance group's performance head online to read the article.

Swimming SSC Championship

Photo by Wakens Leonard

On Feb. 15, Saint Leo's men's and women's swimming teams competed in the Sunshine State Conference Championship. To learn how they did, head online.

70th Annual Fair in Dade City

The 70th annual Pasco County Fair was in Dade City the third week of Feb., packed with food, rides, and even agriculture events. To know more about how the county fair went, read the article online.

Newsroom

(352) 588-8316
Student Activities Building, Office 106
33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Letters To The Editor

- 500 word maxium
- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
- We reserve the right to edit for grammar/spelling/libel or publish.
- Send submissions to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**

Jonah Robertson	**Randawnique Coakley**	**Nicole Alvarez**
Editor in Chief	*Managing Editor*	*Layout Editor*
Kimberly Scott-Williams	**Allison Cobb**	**Mrs. Valerie Kasper**
Online Editor	*Distribution Manager*	*Advisor*

Campus News

An Artist Speaks

By Mirna Cande
Contributing Writer

In the midst of midterm week, Clint Smith visited Saint Leo University to brighten the day with a show of Spoken Word Poetry. This event was sponsored by SGU, CAB, CSA, MISO and Students Activities and held on Feb. 22 at 6 pm in Boardrooms B&C.

A flight delay for Smith caused the show to start 30 minutes later, but the audience waited patiently. The show started with a performance of Vashaad Gordon Fincher, a talented member of the Slam Poetry Club on campus.

Joshua Bartholomew, 2016 SGU president, then nicely announced Smith as he took the stage. Smith did not use the microphone, as he wanted to pay close attention to his audience. He started by introducing himself; a writer, award-winning teacher, acclaimed spoken word poet, and a social scientist that is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University.

Smith's intro was followed by one of his poems. Smith captivated his audience for a full hour with his poetry and left each guest in awe.

Born and raised in New Orleans, the talented poet raised the issue of racism and the fear of African American parents for their kids not to have been safe in the streets because of the color of their skin. He also recited a poem about slavery.

Smith presented several pieces from his first poetry collection "Counting Descent," published in 2016. This work of art draws on the violence experienced by Black people, their joy, and contribution to society. Some of the poems he performed amused the audience, while some others engaged them in deep thought.

At the end of the performance, audience members had some burning questions, such as "Where do you find inspiration for the themes you describe in your poems?" and "how did your first performance as a poet go?"

To the former, Smith responded that he tries, in his artistic personal political project, to use art to serve as a catalyst for a broader conversation about inequality and justice. He is fortunate and blessed to be a writer and a graduate student whose job is to be authentic and write about such things.

"So, to what extent can I use what I'm learning, and sort of synthesize and write them down into things that may be more accessible to people? I am really inspired by what history tells us about ourselves. And I think that part of this moment that we're in now, it's that we fail to understand the history that brought us here," Smith said.

To the latter, Smith responded that his first performance changed his life. He thinks the best writers are the best readers.

To those interested in writing, Smith offered some encouraging advice.

"If your story isn't being told then you need to write about it," he said.

Some of the attendees were already familiar with the work of the esteemed guest speaker. Edson O'Neale, director for student activities, reflected on the day he first met Smith.

"I went to a conference in the fall, in Nov., and he was a keynote speaker at the conference. He blew me away from his talk that I felt like what he said he would have a lot to offer to our students, so I wanted to bring him," O'Neale said.

O'Neale found Smith's performance as great as it was the first time he saw him. However, he wished that more students had come and stayed to see the performance.
The issues discussed were the type of things he feels students need to hear and will inspire them to do great things. He offered special thanks to all of those who made an effort to come and support the event.

Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, director for multicultural and international services, shared her great appreciation for the artist.

"I think it was an amazing event. He is a fantastic speaker. Every single one of his poems spoke volumes in so short a time. I would bring him back to our students if I could," Ramsey-Hamacher said.

Those who wanted to know the artist a little more in depth bought his poetry collection "Counting Descent" at the end of the show. Those who missed the event can get to know Smith a little better by checking out his website at www.clintsmithiii.com.

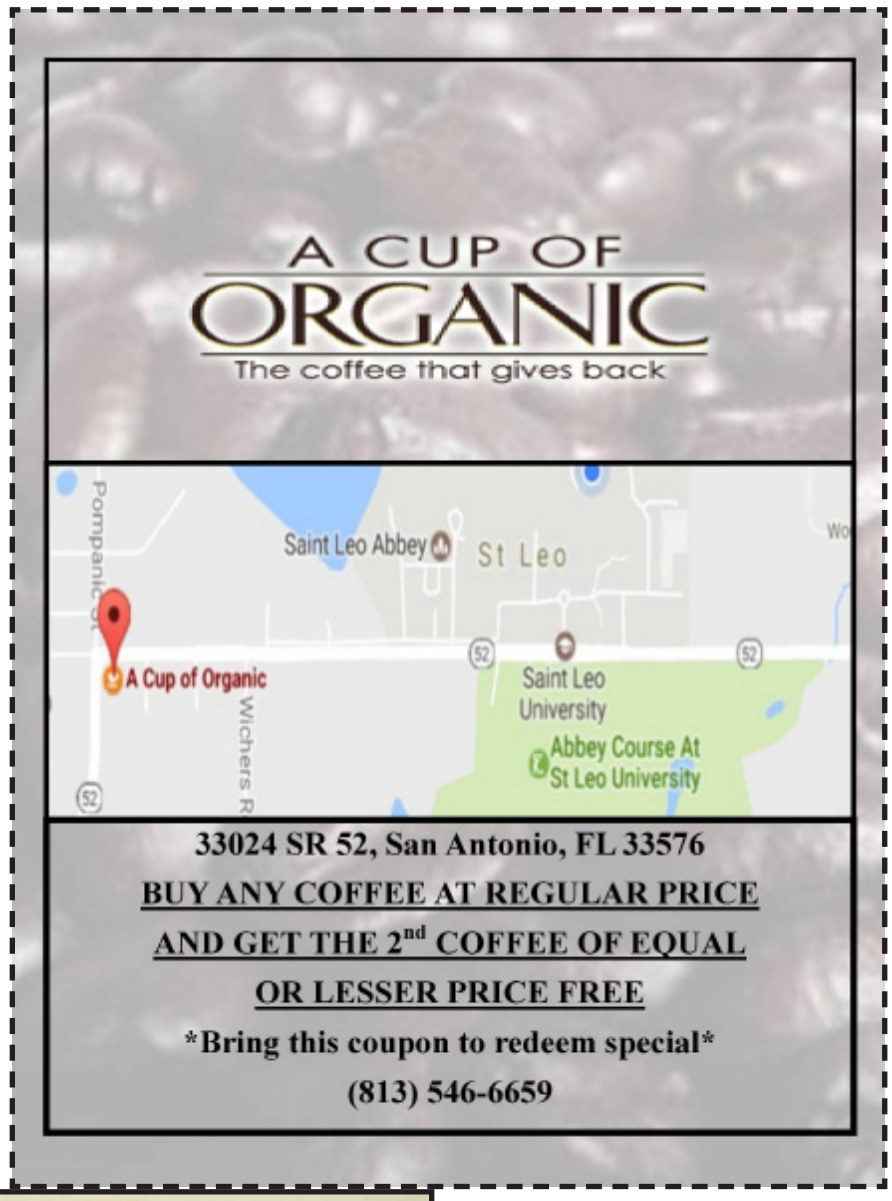


Photo by Mirna Cande

Clinton Smith recited his poetry without the use of a microphone to allow for a more intimate and casual connection between himself and the audience.

Local

Dr. Lennox Appears in Lifetime Television® Series Military Makeover

By Marie Umholtz
Contributing Writer

The Lions' Pride is running articles for the month of Mar. in honor of Military Caregiver Month. This is the first article in a series to be published for this month.

Saint Leo University is partnering with the Lifetime Television® series Military Makeover, and the university's president, William J. Lennox Jr., will appear in an episode that premieres on Mar. 3, 2017, at 7:30 p.m., with a rerun on Mar. 10.

Lennox said, "The show does home improvements for veterans and their families who have special needs. In the episode I appeared in, Corpsman LoBrutto and his wife needed accommodations for their foster children. LoBrutto is on inactive-duty with the Navy."

According to the mini-series' website, Adam LoBrutto was a Hospital Corpsman in the Navy, and he served in Iraq and Bahrain. He currently works as the Veterans Outreach Program Specialist for the United States Veteran Affairs. When he returned from deployment, he was diagnosed with COPD.

Also, LoBrutto and his wife, Rebecca, have a 5 ½ year-old son named Gavin, and they will soon start taking in foster children, according to the Military Makeover website.

The mini-series reached out to Lennox with the opportunity to partner with the show.

"The producers of Military Makeover on Lifetime® approached me about appearing on the show, not only because of my 35 years' experience with the U.S. Army and my previous role as superintendent of West Point, but also because of Saint Leo University's reputation as a military and veteran friendly school," said Lennox.

He continued, "I had an opportunity to talk [about] Saint Leo University and how [we] support our military and veteran students. This partnership combines Saint Leo's commitment to the university's core values, especially giving back to the community. The university receives great exposure from the TV program while helping a military family."

Photo provided by University Communications

Lennox was able to appear in the mini-series after being approached by the show's producers.

The university's collaboration with the show follows Saint Leo University's traditions and interests in supporting military members.

"The university has a long history of educating those who serve their country. The university began educating military personnel on base at Avon Park, Fla., in 1973. Since then, Saint Leo has been committed to providing education to active duty military, reserves, veterans, ROTC, and their families at University Campus as well as online and at the more than 40 education centers and offices—many located on military bases," said Mary McCoy, a university writer who handles media relations at Saint Leo University.

Greg Temnick, associate vice president of Integrated Marketing, and Colonel Pamela Martis, director of the Office of Military Affairs and Services, traveled along with Lennox, for the filming of Military Makeover. In fact, Martis commented on the Lennox's appearance on the show.

Photo provided by University Communications

The first episode of this miniseries aired on Feb. 17, with the episode featuring Dr. Lennox airing on Mar. 3.

It was important as Lennox in his interview was able to discuss the history of Saint Leo University in providing education to military members and the supportive services we provide to assist our student veterans, active military, and military spouses and family members in attaining their degree goals.

In addition to supporting the LoBrutto family, this partnership follows the university's core values, particularly community, while also raising public awareness for the university as a military friendly school.

Transportation in the Saint Leo Area

By Michayne Stoney
Staff Writer

With Saint Leo's growing population, it has become a concern among the students about whether or not there will be a public transportation system put in place. Though some students on campus have their personal cars, many have to rely heavily on friends, or different taxi services to get off campus. These services are generally limited, and quite costly to college students.

Saint Leo's Student Government Union (SGU) is aware of these issues among the general population and has been in dialogue with the student population and administration to see what can be done regarding our access to public transportation systems.

"Though we are fully aware that there are concerns among the student population regarding cost effective and reliable transportation systems, we are in need of more information regarding how we can help. The student government union will be releasing a survey during this week to obtain further information about the issues," said Melissa Bryan, vice president of operations for SGU. "This survey is being released not only to the student body, but to members of faculty and staff. This way, as a student government body, we will be better able to understand, and try to seek ways in which the concerns can be lessened."

Until that is done, students have to find more suitable means of transportation. Martina McKoy, a sophomore majoring in psychology told the Lions' Pride that she is undoubtedly grateful for the trips Campus Activities Board (CAB) have off campus.

"I take advantage of the Walmart and mall trips CAB have scheduled each month. Though I wish they were more regular, they really do help out a great deal, and without that, I would pretty much be totally dependent on my friends and roommates to carry me grocery shopping," said McKoy. "The recreational trips also provide me with an opportunity to get away from campus and have fun with my friends. I look forward to trips such as Food for Thought, where transportation is basically on the school!"

Students may also find it useful to split the cost of an Uber with friends who plan to go to the same destination. The average cost of an Uber from Saint Leo's main campus to Tampa ranges from $30-$45. It may also be useful to look for discount coupons, as this may reduce the cost significantly. However, within the Saint Leo community, Ubers may generally be limited and/or expensive.

Romario White, a freshman majoring in computer science, said "I am lucky to have friends who are almost always on the go, and ready to carry me wherever I want to go. The Ubers in this area are so limited and they are expensive. I usually just help out with gas money for my friends' cars, and if I am really desperate, I go in search of an Uber. I remember last semester when I was in such a situation as I had to travel to the airport, and the school' shuttle system was fully booked. I paid more money for the Uber than my bus ticket to Fort Lauderdale, and I thought this was ridiculous."

With the University's growing population, there may be prospects for a public bus route within our area. Last year, a public bus route was added to area of Land O' Lakes.

In fact, on Apr. 23 of last year, The Tampa Bay Times published an article stating that "Following pleas from residents and Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano, county commissioners tentatively have agreed to enhance the local bus service — including adding a long-awaited circulator route in Land O' Lakes."

Perhaps the change has begun here, and with the University's increasing numbers, there will soon be inclusion of the city in local public bus routes.

National

Immigration Battle Rages On

By Brian Cerskoy
Contributing Writer

On the campaign trail, then presidential candidate and now President of the United States Donald Trump has called for a ban on Muslims entering the nation. Trump cites that such individuals are potential risks to national security and that everything needs to be done to preserve American lives.

On Jan. 27, Trump put that promise into action by signing off on his fifth executive order that held very specific and various implications for immigrants, asylum seekers, and the federal government at large, sparking riots and protests in airports nationwide for many days.

The first provision of Trump's order called for a reduction in the number of refugees allowed into the United States per year from 85,000 to 50,000. The order also prioritized people fleeing nations that persecute people of a religious or ethnic minority group. Furthermore, the executive order suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) altogether for 120 days. The most controversial provisions entail the indefinite halt to specifically Syrian refugee access into the country as well as access from seven so-called "Muslim-majority countries." These nations include Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Trump states that the Department of Homeland Security will work with people on a case-by-case basis to determine if specific persons can be made an exception to this executive order.

Saint Leo itself took a stand on the executive order and President Lennox himself has decided to join our university up with the rest of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) in opposition to the order. In an email sent out to all students, faculty, and staff, Lennox stated "Saint Leo recognizes the moral obligation to assist immigrants, particularly those who are fleeing persecution." He later also stated he respects the American political system and encourages all of us to "hold true to our core values as Americans." ACCU has since published an official statement regarding the order and what kind of support is available for the international students affected.

Also, critics of the executive order argue that it violates both the first and fifth amendments to the Constitution and thus it is unconstitutional.

"The executive order, of course, does not say in express terms that it is favoring Christians and disfavoring Muslims. But Trump, the signatory, had said so explicitly," said David D. Cole of Georgetown University Law Center in an interview with CNN.

Cole has litigated several First Amendment Supreme Court cases.

Cole is arguing that Trump's order is in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which bars the government from disfavoring one particular religion. Other critics state that the provision excludes other Muslim nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, nations that have been heavily involved in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and often seen as adversaries to American interests.

Saint Leo University Political Science Professor Francis Orlando pointed out the possibility of Trump making it very difficult for Republican members of Congress to be re-elected come midterm elections. Moderate districts that voted for Trump as well as Republican figures to Congress may feel compelled to swing their vote towards Democrats as a result of continued extremely right wing and questionable policies, although it is highly speculative. Such a move by said moderate districts would put Trump in a harder situation for the rest of his first term if Democrats held more power in the legislature.

"Still, polls show that there's a lot of support for the order, even though it's on hold right now," said Orlando.

Orlando may be referring to national opinion polls taken by various news agencies and interest groups.

Following the executive order, as previously stated, riots and protests broke out in airports nationwide and nearly 50 separate lawsuits were made against Trump and/or the federal government.

On Feb. 3, a Washington State federal court judge challenged the executive order directly by ordering an injunction, or what is also called a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), that blocks major parts of the order from being enforced nationwide. Specifically, the TRO blocked the enforcement of restricting access of those previously stated seven Muslim-majority countries, meaning refugees and immigrants from those countries are once again able to normally enter the nation by established legal means. Additionally, the TRO blocked the provision that placed limits on accepting refugees, thus Syrian refugees are once again allowed to enter the country legally in addition to immigrants from all countries previously blocked by the executive order.

Immediately following the ruling by that Washington federal court, the Trump administration appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit for a reversal, and on Feb. 9, the court ruled in favor of the Washington judge and Trump's appeal was denied.

With reports from various news sources claiming from Feb. 10, Trump is reported to be in the process of rewriting the executive order in order to bypass the courts altogether and have it be lawful. According to the Washington Post and NBC news, this process is already taking place in the White House. Orlando agreed that Trump is making the right call by re-writing the order instead of taking it to the Supreme Court.

"I think it's more likely that he re-craft the executive order in order to make it sail through (rather) than subject it to the Supreme Court," said Orlando.

Orlando would also comment on the nature of Trump's cabinet and executive staff, saying, "If he had a more professional staff, he'd be able to head off a lot of these issues [...] and get most of the policies he wants passed. Instead, the amateur nature of his staff is distracting people from his agenda."

This begs the question of whether or not Trump's amateur staff will have an effect on future policy decisions made by the president. Also, one might question if this controversial executive order will be able to escape the courts simply by proper writing from Trump's team.

Nevertheless, according to multiple sources such as CNBC and Politico, Trump will reveal the rewritten Executive Order sometime this week.

Photo from @Gingersnapnick

Trump has issued more executive orders in his first two weeks than any other president before him, as well as signing off on executive orders that have the biggest scope out of any president in their first 100 days before him.

Photo from @CNN

Many protesters gathered outside of the building which houses the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in an effort to pressure the court to rule against Trump's appeal on Feb. 9.

Arts & Entertainment

A Wider View of the World: "John Wick 2"

By John Hall
Contributing Writer

"John Wick Chapter 2" is the sequel to the action-packed and commercially successful 2014 blockbuster "John Wick," starring Keanu Reeves (The Matrix trilogy). Reeves reprises his famous role as John Wick, a man seeking solitude after a successful career in being a hitman.

The trailer is completely ambiguous, as it does not reveal any of the plots or themes presented in this sequel. The only thing the audience is certain of walking into the movie is that Wick is once again out of retirement. This is an excellent decision, in times where movie trailers are essentially two to three minute, abridged versions of the movies they represent.

As the film begins, there is a projection on a wall of one of Buster Keaton's films. Buster Keaton (1895-1966) was an American actor, director and stunt performer that was a pioneer in what the audience knows as stunt work today. This immediate and short homage to Keaton related to the viewing audience from the director, let's take a wild ride! The movie had a thrilling one hundred and 20 minute run time that left the audience begging for more. The stunts were seamlessly conducted by Reeves, who is known for immersing himself in roles by doing ninety percent of his own stunt work.

This movie paints a larger picture of the world that Wick was once a part of, as opposed to the myopic view the first film took. This allows us to understand much more the tactical prowess and precision with which Wick operates under. The audience sees the world that he operates in, but with the understanding that it has its own dynamic of people, rules, and practices that must be abided by.

As seen before, there is a lot of violence where Wick's weapon abilities are comparable to a cheat code in a first-person shooter video game. He hits every single target on the first attempt, (which would make him a viable threat in the Star Wars universe against storm troopers). This is the only dynamic that appears "unreal" throughout the movie; however, it lends to Wick's legend, which too can be compared to Chuck Norris' endless mythology.

The movie also has a bit of impact lag, as the reason he returns to the underground world is a bit less compelling, and it's something he truly is forced to do as opposed to the need he had in the first film. Nevertheless, "John Wick 2" has captured what so many other movie franchises failed to do, improve on the worlds they initially created. The idea is not as fresh as it was before but provides meaning by creating a new layer of knowledge of the world in its predecessor.

The movie's critical reception has prompted the beginning of principal photography for the sequel, months before "John Wick's 2" releases. So in the future, expect to be wowed even more from this franchise, which deserves three thumbs up!

Upcoming Events

Renaissance Festival
Date:
2/6 - 3/20 @ 10 AM - 6 PM
Location:
11315 N 46th St., Tampa, FL 33617
Contact:
813-983-0111
Price:
$12.95 - $20.95
Description:
Visitors can travel back to the 16th century and experience live entertainment including jousting, artisans selling their wares, games, and food and drink fit for a king.

Florida Strawberry Festival
Date:
3/2 - 3/12 @ 10 AM - 10 PM
Location:
303 N Lemon St., Plant City, FL. 33563
Contact:
813 - 752 - 9194
Price:
$5 - $10 (regular admission price)
Description:
The festival features a venue for flea market-style craft and freshly harvested strawberry item sales, various free entertainment acts, "big name" concert performances (separate ticket purchase necessary), a parade, livestock activities, a beauty pageant, exhibits, and family fun.

Photo from @JohnWickMovie

Keanu Reeves returns as an expert assasin and shows that action movies can be made with style in "John Wick 2."

Arts & Entertainment

The Final Shot?

By Cristian Martinez
Contributing Writer

Photo from @BagoGames

In "Sniper 4 Elite," be prepared to take on a German war machine in this sniping sequel set in Italy.

In the Sniper Elite saga, the player is an American sniper in Nazi occupied areas. In the first game, the player is stationed in Russia. In the second and third game, the player is in Germany; however, in the latest edition to the saga, the player is stationed in Nazi-controlled Italy.

In the newest game, there are some new aspects added to the traditional Sniper Elite feel. For example, in the new game not only does distance have a factor to play in the player's shots, but so does wind direction, trees, buildings, hills, and even other soldiers. There are new enemies in the game, as well as "familiar faces" such as Spotters, Snipers, Jagers, Captains, Infantry, Armored turrets, and Armored Vehicles. Possibly the most important factor in the Sniper Elite saga that has been enhanced is the gore and the "X-ray" view of the game.

In the X-ray view, the bullet is slowed down and the player can see where he or she hit the enemy and just how much damage was made. Usually the X-ray view is associated with kill shots (head, heart, lungs, intestines, and testicles), and they happen at random.

The environment can be utilized to hide the player from being spotted. External noises can be used to hide the sound of guns, blow up explosives, shoot out weak floors and walls, and shoot down heavy object that will drop on enemies, etc.

The weaponry in "Sniper Elite 4" is very accurate to the actual guns of the era; the character gets tired from running too far and can only run for so long. The longer the Sniper holds his breathe when aiming down the sights to take a shot can factor into how accurate the shot is; but the longer the player holds, it the higher his pulse rate will increase, and if it gets too high the player's Sniper will begin to lose health and even become unconscious.

When the wind increases in strength and speed, it causes the bullet to sway and even miss the intended target. The biggest hardship in the game is the stealth. This game was intended to be mostly slow moving and very quiet along the way; however, in this game, none of the guns are silenced, so distance must be used if available.

As a true sniper, the players must find deposits, dead soldiers, and ammo crates in order to obtain "Silenced Ammo." Sadly, this type of ammo is very limited in each area so it should be used wisely and as quietly as possible. What makes "Sniper Elite 4" so unique is that when an enemy is killed near other enemies, a body is found, or a bullet is heard, the enemy will react and find cover, trying to retrace the bullet's sound to find the Sniper. The goal of the game is to find Hitler and finally take him out, but is it truly that easy or even possible?

All around, "Sniper Elite 4" is a great game for fans of the Sniper Elite saga, because it not only has new aspects, new environments, and all new challenges to overcome, it also remains true the Sniper Elite saga where it matters most. The game is on sale now for $60 and is available for PS4, Xbox One, and PC.

Sports

Women's Basketball in Conference Championships

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

Photo by Wakens Leonard

Chelsy Springs was previously named SSC Newcomer of the Year during the 2015-2016 season.

On Feb. 25, both of the Saint Leo men's and women's basketball teams played their final game of the regular season. The Lions were not successful in the games that took place in Winter Park, Fla. as both the men and women lost in matches against Rollins College. While for the men, the loss marks the end of the season, the women will continue their campaign in the Sunshine State Conference Championships (SSC Championships).

Despite few remarkable performances on the men's side, the Lions were not able to defeat their opponent in the Warden Arena. The Lions lost their game with a score 74 to 82 against Rollins College.

"It was a very disappointing season, but it's part of basketball, it's going to happen. It happens to the best teams in the country," said Head Coach Vince Alexander, after the Lions' final game of the year, according to saintleolions.com.

Since the Lions lost, they will not be able to continue their season and participate in the SSC Championships.

Nevertheless, the loss did not stop Senior Marcus Dewberry from having one of the best games of his collegiate career. During the game, Dewberry scored 37 points for the Lions, which is 2 points more than his previous career best.

Dewberry made a mark in the history of Saint Leo Basketball, as he finished his career with 524 points, which is the seventh best score on the University's all-time career leaders list. Throughout his career as a Lion, the senior also directly assisted his teammates 406 times.

Senior Justin Satchell, was another Lions who was able to score a double during the game. Satchell's 21 points increased his overall number of points scored for the Lions throughout his career to 975 points.

Not only was the game the Lions' last chance to present their abilities this season, but also it was the seniors' last chance to represent Saint Leo University. With the season's end, the team loses five players including Dewberry and Satchell, as well as Necdet Gurkan, Trail Pierce, and Elijah Blackman.

On the women's side, the situation was very similar as the Lions lost their game with a score 61 to 74 against Rollins College, that was their 12th consecutive win of the season. Despite the loss, the women were able to advance to the SSC Championships quarterfinals, and they will be the seventh seed.

The Lions will take part in the championships for the first time since the season of 2014-2015. It is also the first SSC tournament for the team's head coach, Anthony Crocito, who joined the Lions in May 2016, coming to Saint Leo from the New York Institute of Technology.

During the game, Chelsy Springs, senior, had one of the best performances of her career. Not only did she manage to earn her ninth double-digit score of the season, but it was also the highest score she has ever achieved in her collegiate career. The performance is remarkable as Springs' 30 points stand for almost half of the Lions' overall score.

"First, this was one of the best efforts I have coached in 22 years. Second, this was one of the best individual efforts I have coached in 22 years in Chelsy Springs," said Crocito, according to saintleolions.com.

Asia Royster, sophomore, was another Lion who managed to score more than 10 points for the team. For Royster, it was the second time in her collegiate career where she scored a double.

The Lions come back to action on Mar. 1 to start their SSC tournament, and play against either Florida Southern or Rollins.

"We have more hills to climb, but we made the postseason, doubled the previous season's wins and could have the 2016-17 scoring leader in the SSC. I'm proud to lead this program and like our chances, next week," added Crocito, according to saintleolions.com.

During the SSC tournament in 2015, the team finished the tournament by losing to Nova Southeastern. A year earlier, the women were able to advance to the semifinals where the women lost against Tampa with a score 74-80.

Despite the loss, it was a historical season for the Lions as, for the first time in the University's history, they managed to advance to the NCAA tournament.

In the upcoming SSC torunament, the Lions will try to repeat their success from 2013 when they advanced to the final round. It is possible that the women will play against the team that stopped the Lions from winning the tournament, Rollins College.

As the SSC tournament progresses, stay tuned to the Lions' Pride Newspaper for more information about the Saint Leo women's basketball team.

Photo by Wakens Leonard

While the women's basketball team lost to Rollins, they still have a chance at winning the SSC Championships.

Upcoming Games for the Week of 3/3/17 - 3/10/17

M Track

3/3: Vs Univ. of Tampa Track Invitational 3 PM

W Track

3/3: Vs Univ. of Tampa Track Inivtational 3 PM

W Lacrosse

3/3: Vs Gannon 5 PM
3/5: Vs Fort Lewis 12 PM

M Lacrosse

3/4: @ Limestone 12 PM
3/6: @ Emmanuel (GA) 1 PM

Softball

3/3: @ Nova Southeastern 6 PM
3/4: @ Nova Southeastern 1 PM
3/4: @ Nova Southeastern 3 PM
3/7: Vs Ashland @ Clermont, Fla. 1 PM
3/7: Vs Findlay @ Clermont, Fla. 3:30 PM

W Basketball

3/4: @ Daytona Beach, Fla.
3/5: @ Daytona Beach, Fla.

Baseball

3/4: Vs Cedarville 1 PM
3/6: Vs Northwood 4 PM
3/8: Vs Catawba 6 PM

M Golf

3/6: Vs Panther Invitational Rounds 1 & 2
3/7: Vs Panther Invitational Final

W Golf

3/6: Vs Pirate Women's Invitational
3/7: Vs Pirate Women's Invitational

W Swimming

3/8: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships
3/9: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships

M Swimming

3/8: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships
3/9: Vs NCAA Division II Swimming Championships

M Tennis

3/8: Vs Valparaiso 3 PM